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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Hungary

DATE DISTR. 20 April 1950

SUBJECT Position of Minister of Education
József Revai

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1. By appointing Revai Minister of Education, Rakosi arranged that Revai had little time left for the pursuit of his political plans and personal ambitions.
2. Revai, on the other hand, proved an efficient minister, and his ministry though existing for only a short time did a splendid job of its mission which is ideological re-education and later the taking over from Ortutay of religious and educational matters.
3. Already entrusted with breaking the resistance of the Roman Catholic Church, although the Ministry of Public Instruction under Catholic Ortutay is officially assigned this mission, Revai follows Rakosi's conception that strong action is not necessary to break the resistance of the bishops whom he believes can be deprived of their influence by a slow deterioration of religious tendencies.
4. Rakosi, who in his capacity as Minister and because of his tremendous efficiency had established a reputation, is now biding his time. Contrary to his previous attitude, he refrains from undermining Rakosi's position and instead tries to win his protection in the hope that Rakosi will be assigned a new field of activity outside the Hungarian affairs which then would fall to him. The more he succeeds in winning Rakosi's sympathies, the more he seems to insure his forthcoming leading position. Consequently the mutual relations between Revai and Rakosi are considerably improved.

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